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IN THE MATTER OF THE ILL-TREATMENT
OF PRISONERS OF WAR AT HOSAKURA
CAMP, JAPAN, FROM JANUARY TO
SEPTEMBER 1945

A F F I D A V I T

I, No. 153398 [Captain James Forbes LAWRENCE, 2nd Battalion Gordon Highlanders,] with permanent home address at Arngask, Old Manse, Glenfarg, Perthshire, Scotland, Make Oath and Say as follows:-

1. [I was taken prisoner of war with my Battalion in Singapore on 15 February 1942. On 29 January 1945 I arrived at Hosakura in Japan, in the Sendai area, some 250 kilometres north of Tokio amongst a draft of 280 prisoners of war; fifty of us were British and the remaining 230 were Americans. The entire draft were suffering from previous ill-treatment at the hands of the Japanese and we were informed at Moji that we were bound for a hospital at Tokio, but instead we were despatched to Hosakura in order to work in a lead and zinc mine there.
2. Hosakura was some 2,000 to 3,000 feet above sea level and the temperature was well below zero from January until about April 1945. We were accommodated in three wooden huts with about 100 men in each and we slept in double tier bunks but were extremely overcrowded. [No heating was provided except during one period of ten days when Japanese braziers were put in the huts. On arrival we were clothed in tropical kit which was by this time in tatters and rags. We had no footwear and had to make-shift for ourselves in using anything we could find. No warm or other clothing was issued to us by the Japanese despite repeated protests and the fact that the Japanese store in the camp contained thick clothing and footwear from the American Red Cross. The Japanese coolies working in the mine were supplied with warm clothing. On arrival I interceded with the Japanese Camp Commandant by name Lieutenant Izizawa, who required us to go to work immediately, and I managed to obtain a week's rest for the draft before we were put to work. I was severely beaten by the interpreter Corporal Koiwa for the part I played. Subsequently whenever I approached the Japanese staff as Senior British Officer I was beaten up without justification as a matter of course. Corporal Koiwa on one occasion knocked five of my teeth out.
3. We were forced to work from 0600 hours until 1800 hours daily, and had to perform the heaviest manual labour possible consisting of drilling, blasting, clearing rocks, filling tubs and running these out from the mine by hand, timbering work and all other coolie work in and around the camp. We had to march daily a distance of some two or three miles up a steep incline from the camp to the mine, and we also had to carry food in sacks or equipment for the Japanese to and from the mine. We were issued with a small quantity of millet or grain three times a day which was totally inadequate for our needs. We made a watery soup out of potato peelings or shreds of leeks and raddishes given to us by the Japanese as scraps. The millet was eaten cold by the men at the mine. As a consequence all

prisoners suffered from malnutrition and all forms of skin diseases. Beri beri, pellagra, blood disorders, and dysentery were prevalent amongst us. In February 1945 two prisoners of war died per week of pneumonia. All men were forced to work despite sickness and no prisoner was permitted to remain in bed. I was beaten on many occasions for attempting to prevent sick prisoners from being put to work.

4. There were two American medical officers in the draft, Lieutenant Colonel R. O. Gaskill and Captain W. E. Wilson, who did what they were able to but we had no medicines or medical equipment, nor was any dental treatment provided. The Japanese took no notice of our repeated requests for medical assistance or other help. The two American M. D's who were put to work around the camp, were prevented from coming to the assistance of prisoners who were injured in the mine until we all returned to camp each night. There were no medical facilities in the mine itself and the conditions in the mine were dangerous. Many men suffered from crushed fingers, hands or feet. An American by the name of Cox, a first class machinist's mate, had his foot or leg badly crushed which turned gangrenous. Lieutenant Colonel Gaskill, who was a surgeon, asked for permission from the Japanese to operate on this man but this was refused, and the Japanese mine doctor, whose name I do not know, operated upon Cox without an anaesthetic and removed the leg. Lieutenant Colonel Gaskill witnessed this operation and he was so outraged that we had great difficulty in interrogating him as to what happened. He described the operation as "butchery".

5. About 60 prisoners of war died during the period we were in Hosakura and the majority of these died between January and April during the coldest spell. All prisoners who died were cremated in the Japanese crematorium. Deaths were solely due to starvation and the inhuman treatment of the Japanese.

6. Any prisoner making complaints as to ill-treatment was taken to the Japanese guard room where he was forced to take his trousers off and to stand to attention holding his shirt above his head. If prisoners refused to stand to attention for as long as the Japanese guards required they were thereupon beaten. Three prisoners actually died as a result of such treatment and beatings in front of the guard room.

7. The mine "handcho" or foreman was Mutu.

8. [When we were recovered in September 1945 and took over the camp from the Japanese we found ample supplies of food and other necessities.]

SWORN by the said James Forbes LAWRENCE)
at 6 Spring Gardens in the City of)
Westminster this twenty-ninth day of)
January 1946)

(Signed) J. F. LAWRENCE

BEFORE ME

(Signed) Rathcreedan,
Captain, Legal Staff,
Military Department,
Judge Advocate General's Office.

I certify that this is a true
copy of the original affidavit.
/s/ E. Seaton, Capt.
Legal Staff, Office of the Judge
Advocate General

書類第八〇二九號

ゴードン、ハイランダース第二大隊「ジ
エイムス、フォードス、ローレンス」大
尉

—————

私ハ一九四五年二月十五日シンガポール
デ私、大隊ト共ニ俘虜ニナリマシタ。一
九四五年一月二十九日、私ハ二百八十名
ノ俘虜、分遣隊ニ加ハツテ東京カラ約二
五〇軒北、仙臺地區ニアル日本、「ホサ
クラ」ニ到着シマシタ。我々、内五十名
ハ英國人デ殘餘、二百三十名ハ米國ハデ
シタ。分遣隊、全員ガ日本兵、手デ加ヘ
ラレタ是迄、虐待デ苦シンデ居リマシタ。
門司デ我々ハ東京ノ病院ニ送ラレル事ニ
ナツテキルト聞カサレマシタガ、其ノ代リ
ニ鉛ト亞鉛ノ鑛山デ働ケ爲ニ「ホサクラ」
ヘ派遣サレタノデシタ。

x x x x x x

一九四五年、一月カラ四月頃迄ハ氣温ハ
氷點以下ニ随分下リマシタ。

x x x x x x

暖房裝置ハ日本、火鉢ガ十日間小屋、中
ニ置カレタ以外ニハ裝備サレマセンデシ

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タ。到着シタ當時我々ハ防暑服装ヲシテ
居リマシタガ、ソレハ此ノ時最早ボロボ
ロニナツテ居リマシタ。我々ハ履物ガト
カッタノデ自分デ何デモ見附カッタ物デ
間ニ合ハセテ行カネバトリマセンデシタ。
屢々抗議ヲ爲シ又收容所ノ日本軍ノ倉庫
ニハ米國赤十字社カラ、厚イ衣服ト履物
ガ入ツテモタ事實ニモ不拘、暖イ衣服モ
其ノ他ノ衣服モ全ク我々ニハ支給サレマセンデシタ。
鑛山デ働イテモル日本人勞働者ニハ暖イ衣
服ガ支給サレテ居マシタ。到着シタ當時
私ハ直チニ作業ヲ始メル様ニ要求シタ石
澤中尉／音譯／ト呼ブ日本ノ收容所長ニ
執リ成シテ、作業ヲ始メル前ニ分遣隊員
ニ一週間ノ休息ヲ漸ク貰ヒマシタ。私ハ
此ノ役ヲ演ジタ爲通譯、小岩伍長／音譯
／ニヒドク毆ラレマシタ。其後、私が英
軍ノ先任將校トシテ日本人幹部ニ近ヅク
度毎ニ私ハ理由モトク當然ノ事トシテ毆
リ付ケラレマシタ。小岩伍長／音譯／ハ
或時私ノ齒ヲ五本モ毆ツテ折リマシタ。
三 我々ハ毎日午前六時カラ午後六時迄強
的ニ働カサレ、小岩、爆破、岩石ノ取り
片

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片附ケ、岩石ヲ桶ニ入レ手デ鑛内カラ運
ビ出スコト、木材作業及ビ收容所内外
、其他、凡ユル人夫、仕事等、出來ル限
、辛イ筋肉勞働ヲ行ハネバトリマセンデ
シタ。我々ハ毎日收容所カラ鑛山迄急ナ
斜面ヲ二、三哩程登ツテ行進セネバトリ
マセンデシタ。又我々ハ袋ヤ容器ニ入レ
タ食料ヲ日本人、爲ニ鑛山ヘ運ンデ行ッ
タリ運ンデ來タリセネバトリマセンデシ
タ。我々ハ一日二三度少量、稗方穀物ヲ
支給サレマシタガ之ハ我々、必要ヲ滿タ
スニハ全ク不充分デシタ。我々ハ日本人
カラ殘物トシテ與ヘラレタ馬鈴薯、剥皮
ヤ、葱ヤ大根、切端デ水ッポイ汁ヲ作り
マシタ。稗ハ冷タイ饅デ鑛山ニ働イテキ
ル兵士ガ食べマシタ。ソ、結果俘虜全部
ハ栄養失調ト凡ユル種類、皮膚病ニ罹リ
マシタ。脚氣、イタリア癩病、血行不順
赤痢ガ我々、間ニ蔓延シマシタ。一九四五年
二月ニハ~~超過~~二八ノ俘虜ガ肝炎ヲ死ニマシタ。病氣~~ヲ~~テ
マテ主産員ガ~~症候~~ヲ~~開~~サレ、俘虜ハ誰モ~~瘧~~ニ留
テキル事ヲ許サレマセデシタ。私ガ病氣、~~瘧~~ガ就
業~~スル~~ヲ~~防~~ゴ~~サ~~ス~~ル~~ニ~~役~~ラレマシタ。

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4.

四、五ヲ分遣隊ニハ R、C、ガスキル中佐ト
W R、ウイルソン大尉ノ二人、米國軍醫ガ
居リ、彼等ハ出來ル丈、事ヲシマシタガ
我々ニハ藥モ醫療設備モ無ク齒科治療設
備モ全クアリマセシデシタ。日本兵ハ治
療其他、助力ヲ繰返シ懇請シテモ全然之
ヲ顧慮シマセシデシタ。收容所、周邊デ
働カサレテモ々二人、米軍醫ハ嶺内デ負
傷シタ。醫務ヲ看護スル事ヲ毎晩我々全
部ガ收容所ニ歸ル迄阻止サレマシタ。
嶺山自体、中ニモ醫療設備ハ無ク嶺内、
状態ハ危険デシタ。多ク、着ガ指ヤ手ヤ
足ヲ潰サレテ苦シミマシタ。一流、機械工デア
工デアアル「コックス」トイフ米國兵ハ足
ダカ脚ダカヲヒドク潰サレ之ガ壞疽ニト
リマシタ。外科醫デアアル「ガスキル」中
佐ハ此、兵ヲ手術スル許可ヲ日本兵ニ求
メマシタガ拒絶サレ、私ハソ、名ハ知リ
マセンガ日本人、嶺山、醫師ガ麻酔ヲ掛ケズ
ケズニ「コックス」ニ手術ヲ施シソ、脚ヲ切
ヲ切斷シマシタ。「ガスキル」中佐ハ此
ノ手術ヲ目撃シ、非常ニ憤慨シタ、我
々ハ何事ガ起キタ、カ訊ク、ガ大イニ困

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5.

難デアツタ位デシタ。彼ハコノ手術ヲ
屠殺行爲ダト評シマシタ。

五「ホサクラ」ニ居ル間約六十名ノ俘虜ガ
死亡シ、ソノ大部分ハ一月カラ週月迄
ノ酷寒期ニ死亡シマシタ。死亡シタ俘
虜ハ皆日本ノ火葬場デ火葬サレマシタ。
死亡ハ全ク飢餓ト日本ハ、非人道的取
扱ニ因ルモノデアリマシタ。

六誰デモ虐待ニ關シ不平ヲ云フ俘虜ハ日
本軍ノ營倉ニ連レテ行カレ、其所デ無
理矢理ニズボンヲ脱ガサレ、シャツヲ
頭ノ上ニ持ツタ儘不動姿勢ヲ執ラサレ
マシタ。若シモ俘虜ガ日本軍ノ衛兵、
要求シタ丈ノ時間、不動ノ姿勢デ立ツ
テ居ル事ヲ拒絕シタ場合即座ニ毆ラレ
マシタ。實際ニ三名ノ俘虜ガ營倉ノ前
デ斯卡ル取扱ヒト毆打ヲ受ケタ爲死亡
シマシタ。

X X X X X X

一九四五年九月我々が取戻サレテ日本
軍カラ收容所ヲ引續イダ時、我々ハ十
分ト食糧ト其他ノ必要品ヲ見出シマシ
タ。

X X X X X X